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09/182,033

10/29/1998

DALE BURNS

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EXAMINER

KAZIMI, HANI M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3691

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DELIVERY MODE

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PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

**Supplemental  
Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/182,033

Examiner

Hani Kazimi

Applicant(s)

BURNS, DALE

Art Unit

3691

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to reply brief filed on June 6, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 30-37,39-47 and 49.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_.

/Hani M. Kazimi/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3691

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This communication is in response to applicant's amendment filed on October 26, 2006 and the telephone interview conducted on September 4, 2008. Claims 30-37, 39-47 and 49 are pending in this application.

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with attorney Christopher Kilner on July 17, 2009. The application has been amended as follows:

### **IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the Claims as indicated below. The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

30. (Currently Amended) An electronic coupon processing system for eliminating a presentation of printed coupons at a checkout register, comprising: a plurality of

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consumer identification means wherein each consumer identification means is associated with a consumer; a plurality of consumer accounts associated with said plurality of consumer identification means; a database for storing information for each of said plurality of consumer accounts; at least one means separate from a checkout register for each consumer to enter unutilized coupon information from printed coupons in the consumer's possession into said associated consumer account based on input of the consumer's consumer identification means so as to eliminate any need to present printed coupons at a checkout register; at least one checkout register capable of collecting a consumer's purchase information, said register additionally being connected to said database; means associated with said checkout register for reconciling the unutilized coupon information in each consumer's consumer account with the consumer's purchase information based solely on input of said consumer's consumer identification means; and means for updating said consumer's consumer account to reflect utilization of coupons, wherein said at least one means for each consumer to enter unutilized coupon information from printed coupons is the only means provided for consumers to add unutilized coupon information into their consumer account, and the system includes means to add unutilized coupon information directly to consumer accounts; and means for providing Internet review of unutilized coupon information in a consumer's consumer account based on input of said consumer's consumer identification means.

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31. (Previously Presented) The electronic coupon processing system of claim 30, wherein a consumer's frequent shopper card comprises said consumer identification means.

32. (Previously Presented) The electronic coupon processing system of claim 30, wherein additional unutilized coupon information is added to a consumer account by the system based on market information collected for a consumer associated with said consumer account.

33. (Previously Presented) The electronic coupon processing system of claim 30, wherein said database is connected to registers at a particular store or group of stores.

34. (Previously Presented) The electronic coupon processing system of claim 30, wherein said at least one means for each of said plurality of consumers to enter unutilized coupon information from printed coupons in their possession consists of a scanner.

35. (Previously Presented) The electronic coupon processing system of claim 34, wherein said scanner is located in a store and said store further includes means for viewing and a printer for providing a printout of unutilized coupon information in a consumer's consumer account based on input of said consumer's consumer identification means.

36. (Previously Presented) The electronic coupon processing system of claim 35, wherein said printout includes an aisle location for products associated with said coupon information in said consumer account.

37. (Previously Presented) The electronic coupon processing system of claim 30, wherein said means for reconciling automatically sends both purchase information and coupon information directly to a clearinghouse or a manufacturer for reimbursement.

38. (Canceled).

39. (Previously Presented) The electronic coupon processing system of claim ~~[[38]]~~ 30, further comprising means to provide a printout of unutilized coupon information in a consumer's consumer account.

40. (Currently Amended) An electronic coupon process for eliminating a presentation of printed coupons at a checkout register, comprising: a system associating a plurality of consumers with a plurality of consumer identification means; the system associating a plurality of consumer accounts with said plurality of consumer identification means; the system storing information for each of said plurality of consumer accounts in a database; entering, at a location separate from a checkout register, unutilized coupon information from printed coupons in a consumer's possession into said associated

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consumer account based on input of said consumer's consumer identification means to eliminate any need to present printed coupons at a checkout register; collecting said consumer's purchase information at a checkout register that is connected to said database; reconciling the unutilized coupon information in said consumer's consumer account with the purchase information based solely on input of said consumer identification means of said specific consumer; and updating a consumer account of said consumer to reflect utilization of coupons, wherein consumers are limited to adding unutilized coupon information into their consumer account solely from printed coupons in their possession, ~~and~~ the system can add unutilized coupon information directly to consumer accounts; and providing Internet review of unutilized coupon information in a consumer's consumer account based on input of said consumer's consumer identification means.

41. (Previously Presented) The electronic coupon process of claim 40, wherein a consumer's frequent shopper card is used as said consumer identification means.

42. (Previously Presented) The electronic coupon process of claim 40, further comprising adding additional unutilized coupon information to a consumer account based on market information collected for a consumer associated with said consumer account.

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43. (Previously Presented) The electronic coupon process of claim 40, further comprising connecting said database to registers at a particular store or group of stores.

44. (Previously Presented) The electronic coupon process of claim 40, further comprising entering unutilized coupon information from printed coupons using a scanner.

45. (Previously Presented) The electronic coupon process of claim 44, further comprising locating said scanner in a store and said store further providing means for viewing and a printer for providing a printout of unutilized coupon information in a consumer's consumer account based on input of said consumer's consumer identification means.

46. (Previously Presented) The electronic coupon process of claim 45, further comprising printing out an aisle location for products associated with said coupon information in said consumer account.

47. (Previously Presented) The electronic coupon process of claim 40, wherein reconciling automatically sends both purchase information and coupon information directly to a clearinghouse or a manufacturer for reimbursement.

48. (Canceled).



49. (Previously Presented) The electronic coupon process of claim [[48]] 40, further comprising providing a printout of unutilized coupon information in a consumer's consumer account.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

3. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

4. The prior art of record fails to teach an electronic coupon process for eliminating a presentation of printed coupons at a checkout register as discussed on pages 18 and 19 of the decision of the Board of Patents Appeals. For these reasons claims 30-37, 39-47 and 49 are deemed to be allowable over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee, and to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled Comments on Statement of Reasons for allowance.

### ***Conclusion***

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5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hani Kazimi whose telephone number is (571) 272-6745. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alexander Kalinowski can be reached on (571) 272-6771. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Hani M. Kazimi/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3691